

House Resolution 592

By: Representatives Drenner of the 86th, Taylor of the 55th, and Bruce of the 64th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 19, 2009, as Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Day at the state capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Deep-Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is a common but serious medical condition that
4 occurs when a thrombus, more commonly known as a blood clot, forms inside a deep vein,
5 usually in the lower limbs, leading to either partially or completely blocked circulation; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately two million Americans are affected by DVT each year, and
7 600,000 of those are hospitalized for the condition; and

8 WHEREAS, a complication of DVT, pulmonary embolism (PE), can occur when a blood clot
9 breaks loose from the wall of a vein and travels to the lungs, blocking the pulmonary artery
10 or one of its branches; and

11 WHEREAS, even though PE is one of the most common, preventable causes of hospital
12 death in the United States, 200,000 individuals who develop the condition each year will die
13 unnecessarily, more than the number of Americans who die as a result of AIDS, breast
14 cancer, and motor vehicle accidents combined; and

15 WHEREAS, symptoms of DVT include pain, swelling, increased temperature, and
16 tenderness, discoloration, or redness of the affected area; and

17 WHEREAS, as many as one-half of all DVT episodes produce minimal symptoms or those
18 that are completely silent; and

19 WHEREAS, a number of other conditions such as muscle strains, skin infections, and
20 phlebitis display symptoms similar to those of DVT, so that the condition may be difficult
21 to diagnose without specific tests; and

22 WHEREAS, while most victims of DVT are elderly, the condition can strike anyone at risk,
23 including cancer, stroke, heart, or respiratory patients, individuals with clotting disorders or
24 inflammatory disease, pregnant women, women who take oral contraceptives or are using
25 post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy, individuals who are obese, or those
26 undergoing major surgery, such as joint replacement, who remain immobile in bed; and

27 WHEREAS, most Americans are unaware of DVT, its symptoms, its risk factors, or the fact
28 that it is the number one cause of unexpected hospital deaths in the United States, making
29 DVT a major public health concern; and

30 WHEREAS, even though DVT is preventable and treatable with early diagnosis, only
31 one-third of hospitalized patients with risk factors for blood clots receive preventive
32 treatment; and

33 WHEREAS, the routine use of simple, well-established and effective methods of DVT
34 prevention in hospitals would help save the lives of thousands of Americans each year; and

35 WHEREAS, national television correspondent David Bloom died of a pulmonary embolism
36 while covering the war in Iraq, and his widow Melanie Bloom and more than 35 members
37 of the Coalition to Prevent Deep-Vein Thrombosis are working together to raise public
38 awareness of this silent killer; and

39 WHEREAS, recognition of March 19, 2009, as Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness Day will
40 honor the memory of David Bloom, educate the public of the immediate and long-term
41 dangers of DVT, and draw attention to the risk factors, symptoms, and prevention measures
42 associated with DVT, which will greatly reduce the number of individuals who die or
43 become disabled from this condition and its life-threatening complications.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body recognize March 19, 2009, as Deep-Vein Thrombosis Awareness
46 Day at the state capitol.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Coalition to Prevent
49 Deep-Vein Thrombosis and members of the public and the press.